



# News from Diocesan Council

February 2019

## Diocesan Council Membership

The Bishop welcomed all in attendance, particularly noting the presence of the newly appointed Synod Solicitor (in a non-voting capacity). Margie Philpott's resignation from Diocesan Council was noted with disappointment. This creates a vacancy in the Bishop's nominees to the Council. Discussion also ensued regarding the clerical vacancy due to Fr Nat Reuss moving.

## National Redress Scheme

In light of Council's in principle decision to join the National Redress Scheme, the FAI Committee felt that joining the scheme was in the best interests of the diocese and the best option financially. The Council agreed to join the Scheme.

## Registry Relocation

The diocese was made aware of the vacating of its two office premises in Clara Street, Murray Bridge. An inspection of these properties has been made followed by considerable discussion regarding the Registry returning to the 4 Clara Street premises. A Project Scoping Report prepared by Michael Galea of Environ Arc was provided to Council and they agreed to the relocation of the Registry from 5/19 Adelaide Road to 4 Clara Street, Murray Bridge. For now it will be business as usual and we will update you again post Easter!

## Property Report

Jeff McHugh provided a further update to the Council which included the successful sales of St Nicholas Beachport and St Ninian Clarendon. Discussion continues with the Christies Beach congregation regarding a redevelopment proposal.

## Cathedral Renovations

Consideration has been given to the Cathedral being revamped at its east end which would have the benefits of seating the Canons in a dignified way and increasing the overall seating capacity. Preliminary discussion has occurred with Tyndale Christian School with the thought that may be a senior class could come up with a design and build something suitable for the Cathedral.

## Diocesan Synod

Discussion ensued about the timing of the annual Synod. Noting the Bishop's retirement of 31 May 2019 the Council agreed that Synod should proceed at the regular timing, namely 24 and 25 May 2019.

## Draft Synod Budget 2019 and 2020

A draft Synod Budget for 2019 and 2020 has been circulated to Councillors. Council members have been asked to share these within their Mission Partnerships and invite feedback to the Registrar.

## Fr Damian Feeney's Observations

Fr Damian reflected with the Council on his observations about the diocese from the time he was first amongst us until now, his third visitation. Over the intervening time it has been fascinating for him to observe the progression and development of various strands of the missional life of the church in the diocese. The text of Fr Damian's observations have been circulated to the clergy and secretaries.

## Review of Pastoral Districts

The Diocesan Council agreed to flag the renewing of Pastoral Districts at its first meeting each year. It resolved that the Pastoral Districts that are currently in existence - The Pastoral Districts of the Riverland, Strathalbyn, Murraylands, Southern Suburbs, Western Fleurieu, South Coast, Lower Limestone Coast, Tatiara, Kingston-Robe and Upper Limestone Coast (formerly Naracoorte) - are hereby renewed for a further four years.

## Vestries, Pastoral Districts and Other Groups

A paper titled New Shape has been widely circulated within the diocese in preparation for the 2019 Vestry Meetings. It was noted that the Riverland and the Western Fleurieu could share some firsthand experiences in operating with this model.

## 25% Growth Challenge

The figures collated for the 25% Growth Challenge by Christ the King 2018 were discussed. Of the twelve parishes and pastoral districts, nine have shown various degrees of positive growth.

## Home Mission Fund Grants

It was noted that a gift of \$1,000 has been received and that the Bishop applied this to the HMF for the purpose of meeting in part the costs associated with the 2019/20 mission training presented by Fr Damian Feeney.

## Safe Church Environment

Expressions of interest are being sought by 25th February from the parishes and pastoral districts in order to assist in course planning for 2019. It was separately noted that South Australia is working towards implementing the Working with Children Card.

## **2019 Synod Dates**

24th & 25th May, Woodcroft College

## **Website**

[www.murray.anglican.org](http://www.murray.anglican.org)

## **Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/pages/The-Diocese-of-The-Murray](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Diocese-of-The-Murray)